

RICHMOND, IN - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence attended a benefit concert Thursday night along with hundreds of people to benefit the Garden City Trailer Park in its fight for clean water. State officials threatened to condemn the trailer park, located just outside Richmond's city limits, in 2006 after unsafe levels of arsenic were found in its wells.

"I would like to commend the work of the organizers, Bob Wotherspoon in particular, and countless volunteers associated with this wonderful event. The fight to get the Garden City Trailer Park and its three hundred plus residents the clean, safe drinking water they deserve has been long and hard; however, I am confident that the proceeds of this concert will go a long way in□ that quest.

"I remember when Bob brought this issue to my attention at a [town hall meeting I held in Richmond](#) earlier this year, and to see how far this effort has come is a testament not only to his dedication, but to the perseverance, hard work and noble character of the people of Richmond. I was humbled to be able to play a small part in what is proving to be a community-changing project."

A *Palladium-Item* news story on the concert is available [HERE](#) (excerpt below):

Proceeds from the two-hour event headlined by Richmond-area native Ryan Wotherspoon, now a successful singer in Canada, will pay to connect the park to city water lines this fall. The park's 300 residents currently get water from polluted wells. In recent years, state and local officials had threatened to condemn the park.

"We're real excited," said Ruth Ann McDaniel, a 15-year resident of the park, who attended the show at Richmond's Starr-Gennett Pavilion. "It's been a living hell."

Wotherspoon, the son of Bob Wotherspoon of Richmond, who is a neighbor and advocate for the park, said they hoped to raise about \$30,000 to pay to connect the park to the lines. Workers are expected to break ground on the project this fall. For years, the elder Wotherspoon has implored local and state officials to remedy the park's polluted water, and this spring, a \$1 million grant was offered to Indiana American Water Co. to pay for the project.

"And then to have Ryan pour his heart into this, it's hard to explain how I feel right now," Bob Wotherspoon said.

For years, Richmond and Wayne County officials have said they were unable to pay for the project. The park is located just a few miles outside Richmond's city limits. And Wayne County officials, citing a harsh economic climate, have been unable to allocate money to the project.

But on Thursday, local officials volunteered time and resources to make the event a success.

"You can't say enough about how the city and the county have joined together to solve this problem," Bob Wotherspoon said. "If we start working together, we can solve these problems. It's amazing."